



IBM Software Group

# IBM® WebSphere® Application Server V6

## *High Availability Overview*



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This presentation will cover the High Availability services in WebSphere Application Server V6 at a basic level.

## Goals

- Describe the benefits of High Availability services
- Compare capabilities between V6 and V5



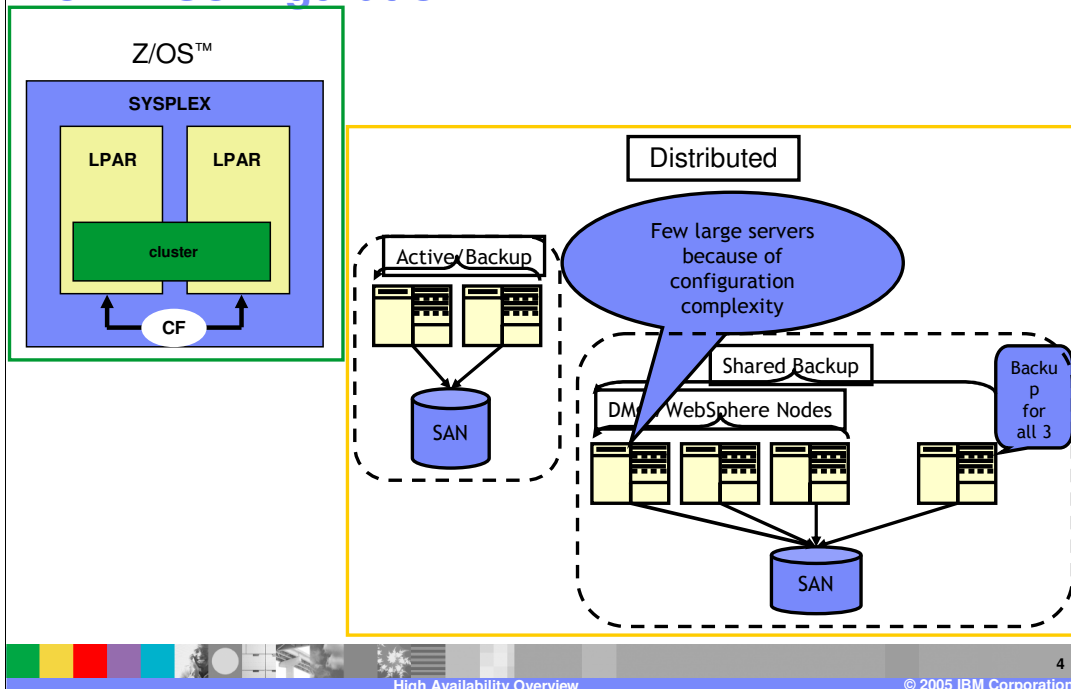
The goals of this presentation are to describe WebSphere Application Server's new High Availability services and to compare these new capabilities to the capabilities of WebSphere Application Server V5 in this area. More details on this topic, including how to configure High Availability services, can be found in the presentation titled "High Availability Details including Core Groups and Policies".

## WebSphere Application Server V5: “HA” Status

- Cold failover only
  - ▶ Peer Restart and Recovery (PRR)
    - Clears in-flight transactions
    - Releases locks
  - ▶ Normal start of backup server
  - ▶ Still available in V6 as an option
    - Supports V5 workloads

With WebSphere Application Server V5, there are some obstacles to achieving true high availability. In version 5, High Availability meant Peer Restart and Recovery automated with z/OS ARM. Failover lead to several minutes of downtime, which is not ideal.

## v5 HA Configuration



The picture for distributed platforms that required high availability tend to be configured in either Active/Backup pairs, or with a few active nodes and a single machine acting as backup for all of them. Because of the complexity of this configuration, it was easier for most people to use only a few machines, which meant they had to be quite large if they were handling a heavy workload.

This picture was different for z/OS. Here RSS and ARM played key roles in Peer Restart and Recovery, and still can.

## V6 HA Overview in general

- Bringing distributed and z/OS failure recovery into alignment (mostly available in z/OS for V5)
- Significant improvements in high availability
  - ▶ The rest of your environment (such as databases) must be made highly available as well to achieve true high availability
- Can automate the recovery process
- Hot standby and peer failover for critical singleton services
  - ▶ WLM routing, Java Message Service (JMS) messaging, Transaction Manager, and others
  - ▶ Failed singleton starts up on an already running Java Virtual Machine (JVM)
  - ▶ Planned failover takes very little time
- The configuration of highly available systems is simplified
  - ▶ Works out of the box in most cases

WebSphere Application Server Version 6 brings the distributed and z/OS platforms into closer alignment. WebSphere Application Server V6 can be used as part of a highly availability environment as a result of a new service known as the High Availability Manager. The High Availability Manager runs important services on any server that is available. The High Availability Manager keeps track of the status of all of your servers and the services that they are running, ensuring that all services remain continuously available. When a failure is detected, the failed service can be started in another already-running JVM, potentially on another physical machine, in very little time. Planned failover takes less than a second.

While many of these properties were true for PRR, HA and PRR are very different.

This new capability is far easier to configure than PRR. In most cases, this capability will work out of the box, with no configuration required.

## V6 HA Overview (cont.)

- HA
  - ▶ Strategic Direction
  - ▶ Requires a Cluster
    - Will not start a server
    - Quicker than PRR
  - ▶ **Type 4 JDBC only**
- Peer Restart and Recovery
  - ▶ You are already there
    - Supports V5 workloads only
  - ▶ Cluster not Required
  - ▶ Can be configured with ARM
  - ▶ Type 2 or 4 JDBC

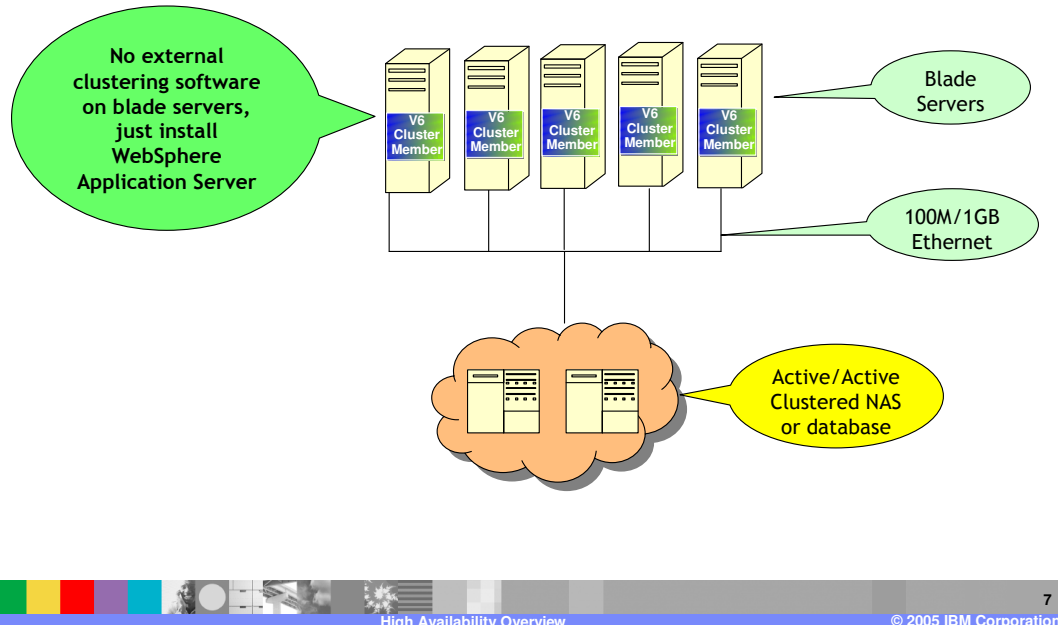
**WARNING:** Can't use both HA and ARM(Automatic Restart Manager). Using both HA and ARM to control WebSphere leads to unpredictable results – DON'T DO THIS. You can use HA to control fail over for WebSphere with ARM policies that control CICS or others but not WebSphere

The best practices is to start using WebSphere Application Server V6 with PRR and move to HA over time. HA is the strategic direction for WebSphere, but HA and PRR are different. You understand PRR, and need to learn and move to HA, in a controlled fashion. PRR development will not advance much farther and will not work with

- 1) Web Services
- 2) JCA 1.5 connectors
- 3) System Integration Technologies
- 4) and many future J2EE paradigms

The type 4 JDBC is an RSS restriction and a tech doc describing this restriction is included with the GA delivery of WebSphere Application Server V6.

## v6: HA Configuration



It is far easier to build a highly available environment with WebSphere Application Server V6. You need only to install WebSphere Application Server on your servers. Because no external clustering software is required, it is more practical to deploy a large network of blade servers. However, you will need to ensure that any resources on which WebSphere Application Server depends are made highly available. This means storing transaction logs on a highly available Network Attached Storage system or logstreams, and making sure that your database servers are clustered, among other things. The real net gain is unified management and quicker transition times.

## Failover for Different Service Types

- Singleton services that require failover fall into two categories:
  - ▶ User resources: application related resources
    - Example: Transaction log for 2PC transaction, Messaging Engine
    - Failover occurs only within the cluster boundary
  - ▶ System resources: used internally by WebSphere Application Server
    - Example: WLM routing
    - Failover can occur to any process within the Core Group
- A Core Group defines a set of processes that can cooperate to provide each other with high availability



Singleton services that require failover can be divided into two categories, user resources and system resources. User resources are artifacts related to a user application, such as a transaction log or a messaging engine. These resources can fail over only to another member of the same cluster, because only members of the same cluster are guaranteed to be running the same applications. System resources, such as WLM routing, can be run on any process within the same Core Group. A Core Group is a boundary that defines the set of processes that can provide each other with high availability. In the default and most common configuration, all processes are members of a single Core Group.



## Summary

- New V6 functions provide high availability that traditionally could only be achieved using high-cost external clustering products



In summary, this presentation has focused on the new high availability related functionality in WebSphere Application Server V6. This functionality provides far better availability than WebSphere Application Server V5 and does not require the assistance of external clustering products. WebSphere Application Server V6 is capable of being part of a carefully designed environment that provides high availability. More details on this topic, including how to configure High Availability services, can be found in the presentation titled “High Availability Details including Core Groups and Policies”.

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